



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Two Men Sentenced in 2007 Murder Case**

**WASHINGTON** - Darryl Hunter, 37, and Xerses Alexander, 21, were sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on January 15, 2010, for their roles in the robbery and murder of Jason Dantley, who was killed on December 14, 2007, announced U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Hunter was sentenced by the Honorable Michael L. Rankin to 41 years in prison. Hunter was found guilty after a jury trial on October 23, 2009, of First Degree Murder while Armed, Armed Robbery, Obstruction of Justice, and related weapons offenses. Alexander, who pled guilty in the case, was sentenced by the Honorable Neal E. Kravitz to 10 years in prison for Voluntary Manslaughter while Armed, Conspiracy, and Armed Robbery.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 14, 2007, at approximately 2 p.m., Xerses Alexander called his friend, Jason Dantley, on the phone and asked if Mr. Dantley could come by and sell him some ecstasy pills. Mr. Dantley, who lived with his girlfriend and their 10-month-old daughter in Forestville, MD, and who worked full time as a chef at a Bethesda restaurant, agreed. Mr. Dantley and his girlfriend had plans to drive out of town for the upcoming weekend; shortly before the call, his girlfriend gave Mr. Dantley \$300 in cash to use to get the tires changed on his car. After getting off the phone with Mr. Dantley, Alexander suggested to his roommate, Hunter, that they rob Mr. Dantley. Hunter agreed.

At about 2:15 p.m., Mr. Dantley parked in a lot behind an apartment house located at 2320 Chester Street, SE, where Hunter and Alexander resided. Alexander greeted Mr. Dantley as he sat in his car, the two men talked, with Alexander leaning on the driver's side window of the car. After a few minutes, Hunter walked into the parking lot wearing a mask and pointing a 12-gauge shotgun at Alexander and Mr. Dantley, and announced a robbery. Mr. Dantley pleaded that he had a daughter, and then tried to drive away. As he did so, the defendant fired one shot from the shotgun through the open driver's side window of Mr. Dantley's car. Mr. Dantley was hit in the neck and killed almost instantly. The car struck the parking lot fence and came to a stop. Hunter then pulled Mr. Dantley from the car, and Alexander removed the \$300 in currency from Mr. Dantley's pockets. The two returned to the apartment building, and divided up the money.

Hunter was arrested one week later, on December 21, 2007. Alexander was arrested on December 23, 2007. Alexander cooperated with the government, and testified against Hunter at trial.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his thanks to the Metropolitan Police Department, and in particular to MPD Detective Joshua Branson and Anthony Greene and MPD Officer Tina Ramadhan. Mr. Phillips also praised William Henderson of the USAO Litigation Technology Unit, Paralegal Sandra Lane of the U.S. Attorney's Office Homicide Section, Marcia Rinker, Victim-Witness Program Specialist, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Liebman, who investigated and tried the case.

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